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Volunteer Chef Honors Sailors' Service with Visit During Carr Deployment

Story Number: NNS090408-10

Release Date: 4/8/2009 7:50:00 AM

By Ensign Tim Boston, USS Carr Public Affairs

USS CARR, At Sea (NNS) -- A civilian chef embarked the guided-missile frigate USS Carr (FFG 52) April 3-5 to help hone the ship's culinary staff's skills during its deployment to Latin America.

Certified Executive Chef Keith Boston, director of culinary development at Sheetz Inc., volunteered to get underway with Carr and work with the ship's culinary specialists as part of the Adopt-a-Ship program.

"Chef Boston really motivated and inspired us because he showed us what we could accomplish with a career culinary arts and how to improve our galley for deployment," said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Matthew Libstorff.

"He didn't try to change anything we did; he just showed us how to improve what we did with what we had on board. I would gladly have him back on board."

The Adopt-a-Ship program was started by professional chefs who wanted to serve their country and work with Sailors. The program allows chefs to share their skills and experience with culinary specialists aboard ships in Navy. Boston began working with the Adopt-a-Ship program more than 20 years ago when he lived in Charleston, S.C., and volunteered on U.S. submarines and surface ships stationed there.

"It is important to support our deployed Sailors, and I enjoyed experiencing life on a warship," said Boston.

Working with eight of Carr's culinary specialists, Boston assisted in the preparation of breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the crew of 180 Sailors. The crew enjoyed Boston's special cheesy garlic bread, marinated steaks, pudding, bread pudding and blooming onions. He also focused on knife skills and culinary presentation.

Carr, homeported in Norfolk, is deployed to the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) area of focus, which encompasses the Caribbean, Central and South America. Carr is conducting counter-illicit trafficking operations under the operational control of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) and U.S. 4th Fleet, and under tactical control of Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S).

As the Navy component command of SOUTHCOM, NAVSO's mission is to direct U.S. naval forces operating in Caribbean, Central and South American regions and interact with partner nation navies within the maritime environment. Fourth Fleet is the numbered fleet assigned to NAVSO, exercising operational control of assigned forces.

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